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4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein using the quasi-static method for time slot allocation within a frame to enforce the upper bound on the time elapsed between the two time slots allocated to the same node, further comprises using a distributed election algorithm to assign the time slots for quasi-static scheduling using a network membership date obtained from a routing protocol used in the network.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein each of the nodes maintains an admitted-node table that specifies all of the nodes in the network that have been admitted for inclusion in the assignment of the time slots reserved for quasi-static scheduling.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 5, wherein each of the nodes maintains a new-node table that specifies for each one of the nodes in the network a unique identifier and a network time indicating when the new nodes is assumed to have first announced an entry into the network.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the new nodes delays notifying its entry into the network for a predetermined period of time.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein for quasi-static scheduling the time slots are assigned to the admitted nodes using a deterministic algorithm based on identifiers of all the nodes in the network.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, further comprising, when the new node enters the network, the new node is arranged to notify its neighbors about a network time when it becomes operational.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the admitted nodes notifies its two closest neighbors.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 4, further comprising, the admitted nodes including a storage unit that is arranged to maintain an admitted-node table and a new-node table.

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19. (Original) The method of 18, wherein the hold-down time is set such that all of the nodes within the network have learned about the existence of the new node by the expiration of the hold-down time.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising adding a padding time to the hold-down time such that regardless of the network time when the new node became operational, all the nodes in the network start including the new node for the allocation of time slots reserved for a quasi-static scheduling method at a same schedule starting point.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the new node notifies the network that it is operational after at least one epoch has passed.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the time slots allocated for quasi-static scheduling may be used to transmit short control packets that are used primarily to maintain time synchronization in the network.